



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

THE DESERT

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON
HUMANS, NATURE, AND
TECHNOLOGY

– PROGRAM –

1 NOVEMBER 2024

ONLINE CONFERENCE

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

DESCRIPTION

The focus of this conference proceeds from the following question: As we swiftly advance into a post- and transhuman future, how can the conceptual power of the desert evolve and emerge from within the fissures of this philosophical landscape?

Biotechnologies, digital innovations, and machine intelligences are so novel as to no longer fit within 19th and 20th century categorizations, disrupting taken-for-granted ontologies about life and non-life. They are a flash point for progression into new modes of desert thinking, for which deserts, as conceptual spaces, may be pivot points around which many of the dualities that have typified the humanist and modern paradigm may merge, twist, or flow.

ORGANIZERS

The organizers for the conference are Natasha Beranek, PhD, and the Editorial Board of the book series "Studies in Anthropology and Transhumanist Philosophy," together with Trivent Publishing (Budapest, Hungary) and the Trivent Transhumanism imprint (Head of Imprint: Prof. Dr. Stefan Lorenz Sorgner).

09:00 PANEL 1.

* Please note that the program follows the Pacific Daylight Time

- 1** **9:00–9:15**
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY NATASHA BERANEK

- 2** **9:20–9:40**
DIFFERENT CASTLES MADE OF SAND: THE DESERT IS OUR HOME
KEYNOTE TALK BY STEFAN LORENZ SORGNER
Associate Professor of Philosophy, John Cabot University; Head of
Transhumanism Imprint at Trivent Publishing

- 3** **9:45–10:05**
THE MOJAVE DESERT AS CREATIVE CATALYST
KEYNOTE TALK BY KIM STRINGFELLOW
The Mojave Project, Director

- 4** **10:05–10:15**
COMMENTS / DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

10:26 PANEL 2.

- 5** **10:25–10:45**
FROM THE DESERT NATURE OF LUDVIG KLAGES TO THE DESERT ISLANDS OF GILLES DELEUZE: TOWARDS A CRITICAL POSTHUMAN APPROACH OF THE DESERT?
Anna Markopoulou
Postdoctoral Researcher in Philosophy at the University of the Aegean, Department of Cultural Technology and Communication
- 6** **10:50–11:10**
REMARKS ON THE NOTION OF THE POST-APOCALYPTIC DESERT IN SCIENCE FICTION COMICS AND FILMS
Evi Sampanikou
Professor of Art History and Visual Culture, Department of Cultural Technology and Communication, University of the Aegean
- 7** **11:15–11:35**
DESERT, SIMULATION AND REALITY
Marius Markuckas
PhD in Philosophy, Vilnius University
- 8** **11:35–11:45**
COMMENTS / DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

11:55

PANEL 3.

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11:55–12:15

***KOMAL KOTHARI'S MUSICAL ARCHIVE: AN ALTERNATIVE
CARTOGRAPHY OF INDIA'S THAR DESERT***

Nilanjana Mukherjee

Visiting Fellow, Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute,
Centre for Government and International Studies, Harvard
University

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12:20–12:40

THE LOW DESERT MUSIC SCENE, 80'S–90'S

Sophia Possidon

Instructor, Business Division, Glendale Community College

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12:45–13:05

***A DESERT LISTENING STATION: BRINGING UNPOPULAR MUSIC
TO BURNING MAN***

Stephan Moore (Associate Director, Sound Arts & Industries MA
Program, Northwestern University) **and Scott Smallwood**

(Professor, Music Composition and Sonic Arts; Director, Sound
Studies Institute, University of Alberta)

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13:10–13:30

MUSIC HISTORY FROM COSMOLOGY TO COSMOPOLITICS

Austin Showen

Assistant Professor and Director of Music Education, School of
Music, Shepherd University

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13:30–13:40

COMMENTS / DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

13:50 PANEL 4.

- 14** 13:50–14:10
STARTING POINT: WHEN THE MOJAVE DESERT IS HOME, NOT THE ANTIDOTE OR "OTHER PLACE"
Ruth Nolan
Professor of Literature and Creative Writing, College of the Desert
- 15** 14:15 TO 14:35
FUTURE NOSTALGIA: DESERT ROMANTICISM AND HARBINGERS OF THE NEED FOR NEW CONDITIONS OF POSSIBILITY FOR MUSICAL CREATIVITY
Natasha Beranek
Series Editor, Anthropology and Transhumanist Philosophy, Trivent Publishing
- 16** 14:40–15:00
SONGS FOR SURVIVAL – INTERCONNECTED BIOCULTURAL WORLDS AND CEREMONIAL PERFORMANCE IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA
Georgia Curran
Robinson Fellow, Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney
- 17** 15:00–15:30
WRAP UP DISCUSSION

SEE YOU SOON!



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